PUBLIC NOTICE

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Seeks Proposals in Response to Request for Proposals #7

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) seeks proposals in response to its Request for Proposals (RFP) #7 for the National Board Certification (NBC) assessment delivery system. Proposals are sought from testing corporations, information system developers, personnel and teacher training networks, other public and private agencies, professional associations, groups, individuals or consortium of organizations for establishment of the NBC delivery system.

The NBC delivery system will include development of a candidate and assessment information system, the production and distribution of informational and assessment materials, the development and implementation of an assessor recruitment and training system, establishment of assessment facilities as required, and administration of a scoring and candidate feedback system.

Individuals interested in submitting a proposal in response to RFP #7 should contact:

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
RFP #7
300 River Place, Suite 3600
Detroit, MI 48207
Attention: Patricia Sinelli
Telephone (313) 259-0830 ext. 226

Proposals must be received by *5 p.m. EST, Friday, November 20, 1992.*

A bidder's conference will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 1992 in the conference room of NBPTS, located at 300 River Place, Suite 3600, Detroit, MI 48207.

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Average ACT Score Stays at 20.6 for 4th Straight Year

By Christopher Shea

The average score on the ACT Assessment for the 1992 graduating high-school class was 20.6, marking the fourth straight year that the scores have not changed.

Scores by race did not change, except for a slight decrease in the score for American Indians. Men's scores did not change, but those of women increased slightly.

The college-entrance examination, which is administered by American College Testing, is scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The four-part test measures students' mastery of grammar, mathematics, reading comprehension, and scientific reasoning. ACT Assessment scores are required by many colleges, especially those in Midwestern and Western states.

Although the ACT Assessment scores have not changed since 1988, the scores for the Scholastic Aptitude Test have dropped 5 points—out of a possible total of 1,600—during the same period. However, College Board officials reported last month that a decline in verbal scores that began in 1987 had ended last year when the average verbal score increased by a point, to 423. The average mathematics score rose 2 points over the previous year's average, to 476 (*The Chronicle*, September 2).

ACT officials said that the 832,217 graduating seniors who took the test last year were, on the whole, academically better prepared than in years past—but that many students were still not taking the rigorous classes that lead to good scores.

"The positive relationship between high-school coursework and average scores is clear across all racial-ethnic groups," said Richard L. Ferguson, the ACT president. "One of the major challenges facing educators today is developing strategies to assure that all college-bound students get the high-school preparation they need to do well in college."

Fifty-three per cent of the examination takers had the benefit of what the testing service considers a college-preparatory program: four years of English and three years each of mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences. That proportion represents a significant increase over the 43 per cent who said they had taken such courses in 1988.

Average ACT Scores

	1992	1-year change
Men	20.9	0.0
Women	20.5	+0.1
American Indian	18.1	−0.1
Asian	21.6	0.0
Black	17.0	0.0
Mexican-American	18.4	0.0
Other Hispanic	19.3	0.0
White	21.3	0.0
All	20.6	0.0

Note: The test is scored on a scale of 1 to 36.
SOURCE: AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING

The average score for students last year who had taken a full load of college-preparatory courses was 22; for students whose coursework was less demanding, the average score was 19.1.

Although the scores of minority students who had taken a college-preparatory academic program surpassed those of minority students who had not, scores for all minority groups except Asian Americans lagged well behind those for white students.

"We see a positive message in the fact that, even given the obstacles disadvantaged students face, you can see a difference in students who are academically prepared," said Patricia A. Farrant, a spokeswoman for ACT.

The average score for women rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 20.5, while the average score for men remained at 20.9.

Number Has Increased

Except for the scores of American Indian students—which dipped from 18.2 in 1991 to 18.1 in 1992—the average scores for all ethnic groups remained flat.

The average score for black students was 17.0 this year, the same as in 1991. The average score for Mexican-American students remained at 18.4, and the average score for "other Hispanics" stayed at 19.3. The average score for Asian Americans was 21.6. The average score for white students was 21.3, the same as in 1991.

The number of minority students taking the ACT has increased 21 per cent since 1988. Last year the number of minority students taking the test rose 6.7 per cent, and the total number of students taking the test rose 4.4 per cent.

Said Ms. Farrant: "You would normally expect a depression in scores when the number of students goes up. It's a good sign that there has not been one." ■

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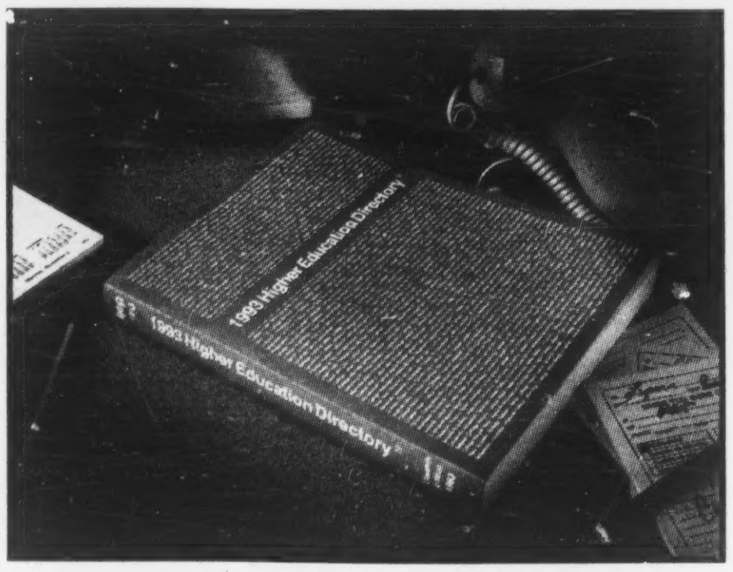

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THE CHRONICLE
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Quote, Unquote

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The organizer of a conference on genetic factors in crime: A44

"It's as if there's this sort of screen: No matter what you talk about, it's coming from a lesbian."
A professor at SUNY, on being openly gay or lesbian on a campus: A17

"The Supreme Court has been struggling for years for a definition of 'obscene.' The conferees have just provided one."
Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert, on financing for the SSC in 1993: A24

"We're not just skimming off the top and leaving the rest to rot."
The president of Stillman College, on a scholarship fund to aid students in riot-torn Los Angeles: A31

"The gap between women's political consciousness and their ability to effect change through the political process has become more and more painfully evident."
A women's-studies professor, on female candidates in this fall's elections: B1

"We simply cannot allow this nation's great institutions of learning, art, and science to languish because our tax code punishes the generosity of private citizens."
Three Senators, on changing the tax code to benefit colleges: B3

"I wouldn't want the public to have a perception of the president of the NCAA not supporting and abiding by the rules, even if that perception is incorrect."
The secretary-treasurer of the NCAA, who is being investigated by its infractions panel: A33

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RODNEY WHITE FOR THE CHRONICLE

- **Technology's role in higher education called pivotal: A21**
- **4,000 violent crimes on 580 campuses in past three years: A32**
- **Throngs of students in Brazil urge ouster of president: A35**

MARGINALIA

Richard Wilk and Anne Pyburn, the authors of a promotion piece in our July 29 column for the imaginary journal *Pro Forma, The Magazine for the Busy Academic*, have now come up with an all-purpose abstract for use in the social sciences and humanities:

"Recent dimensions of critical theory suggest that relativistic parameters of change in discourse have dramatic implications for understanding the processual construction of knowledge. Yet our discipline experiences a profound dilemma concerning basic stances of analytical subjectivity, which remain poorly articulated in practice. This paper adopts a programmatic and ethnographic position towards the making of its object, in order to make a fundamental contribution to the conceptual hermeneutics of disciplinary knowledge-building. It then discusses the epistemological implications of our theoretical position, and makes recommendations for a more thorough integration of formal constructs into the semiosis of our common concerns in research, writing, and teaching."

In our usual spirit of service, we are happy to provide you with Mr. Wilk's and Ms. Pyburn's invaluable contribution.

■

Announcement of a job at the University of Minnesota at Duluth:

"Chicano / Latino / Hispanic Student Services Coordinator . . .

"Graduate degree; evidence of counseling skill; knowledge of Chicago / Latino / Hispanic culture; communication / interpersonal skills; diversity advocate; ability to work with local Chicano / Latino / Hispanic community; working experience with ethically diverse populations. . . ."

That sort of diversity is the worst kind.

■

From a "Rideshare Survey" at Willamette University:

"The frustration of trying to find a parking space with Willamette's growing population and current number of parking spaces is becoming, sometimes, to much to bare. Willamette has been working on a new way for the students, staff, and faculty to curb the parking problem. . . .

"If you are not interested in this program would any of the following suggestions be an insensitive that could make you reconsider the ride share program. . . ."

Sorry. You missed the bus.

■

Stop-the-presses bulletin (from the "Fall '92 Course Schedule Addendum" at Corpus Christi State University):

BIO 491, SELECTED TOPICS: HUMAN EVOLUTION IS CANCELLED

It's about time. —C.G.

In Brief

Administrator suspended after releasing names

ONEONTA, N.Y.—An administrator at the State University of New York who gave the names of black male students to police investigating an attempted rape has been demoted and suspended without pay for one month.

Leif Hartmark, vice-president for administration at Oneonta, will be demoted to director of finance and administration for giving a list of 125 black male students to police, who requested the names after a 77-year old woman said a black man had tried to rape her. Students complained that police had come to question them in their dormitories and at work and that the treatment had been humiliating.

About 500 students protested Mr. Hartmark's action last week and demanded that he be fired.

Alan B. Donovan, president of the university, said in a statement that the release of the names was "a breach of trust." Mr. Donovan said he planned to meet with state police about the way the investigation was handled. He also said that all future requests for information about students must be approved by him. ■

RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

Black students press for cultural center

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Students at the University of North Carolina are demanding that the university find a site for a free-standing black cultural center by November.

Student protesters (*above*), led by a group called the Black Awareness Council, have organized rallies and marches to push their demands for a new center to replace the small, temporary offices that have been used for four years. Organizers refused to say what action they might take if their demands are not met. The film maker Spike Lee was scheduled to attend a campus rally to support the students. University officials have opposed a free-standing center because they have said it would promote separatism. A university panel is expected to study the matter. ■

CALVIN P. WHITE

Early snow blankets Alaska campus

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA—The earliest storm in years blanketed the University of Alaska last week with nearly 12 inches of snow in two days. The snow fell on trees that still had their leaves, causing branches to bend and fall across power lines. The campus (*above*), which has its own power plant, did not lose electricity during the storm and served as a shelter for area residents left without power. The university requested special help from the Alaska Department of Transportation in cleaning and sanding its roads. "We didn't anticipate heavy snow until the first part of October, so all of our snow equipment was in the repair shop," said Debra P. Damron, a spokeswoman for the university. ■

Snake is victim of budget cuts

LONG BEACH, CAL.—One of the many casualties of the budget cuts in the California State University system was a 14-foot long Burmese python named Henrietta.

The snake (she and her handlers are pictured at right) was part of the Mobile Science Museum, a program of the College of Natural Sciences, which staged educational demonstrations at public schools in southern California. The program was eliminated and the snake's handlers were laid off, leaving Henrietta without

a home after 12 years at the university. A children's zoo in northern California has agreed to take her. ■

Kauai college suffers hurricane damage

LIHUE, HAWAII — Rebuilding efforts are under way at the University of Hawaii Kauai Community College following a hurricane that destroyed much of the campus and left many employees and students homeless. Nearly every structure on the campus was damaged when Hurricane Iniki hit the island. Among the buildings demolished were the Hawaiian Studies Center, a new child-care center, and a portable trailer used for faculty offices.

The remaining seven colleges in the University of Hawaii Community College System have established a relief fund for the victims at the Kauai campus. ■

Powwow helps university honor Indian culture

MORGANTOWN, W.VA.—American Indians from around the country attended a powwow sponsored by West Virginia University to help kick off a semester-long campus tribute to American Indians.

ED PETROSKY, WEST VIRGINIA U.

At the powwow, Jason Red Claw of the Cherokee Nation (*left*) demonstrated a ceremonial dance wearing attire similar to that worn by American Indian warriors.

The university is commemorating the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage in 1492 by reflecting on American Indian culture. A statement released by the university says the three-month-long program, which will include art exhibits, lectures, and performances, is intended "to help erase ignorance of the first inhabitants of this continent." ■

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Government & Politics

Ways & Means

In an effort to raise awareness of student aid and higher education, the Education Department is developing computer software for junior-high and high-school students to gauge how much federal aid they may be eligible to receive.

"The Estimator," an interactive program compatible with IBM personal computers, is expected to be available to guidance counselors this spring. A department official called it a "visually attractive" derivative of the department's more detailed program, which is now offered to colleges.

"It will be a series of screens to not only estimate the amount of expected family contribution, but to give updated information about the types of aid, the costs of postsecondary education, as well as broad information about careers, setting goals and the returns of higher education," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"The Estimator" could be the first phase of a centralized data base that some educators envision to inform students and parents about student aid and admissions standards.

"We believe if a parent is counseled and then helped to use these tools, there might be a different attitude as far as the courses those kids take in high school," said Patricia M. Hawkins, governmental-affairs coordinator for the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. "We think having that information available helps set a frame of mind that, 'Even if I couldn't do it, maybe my kid can.' "

"The Estimator" will be distributed at no cost, upon request.

■

It may not be a full revival of the Free Speech Movement, but activism is getting a boost this week as students on several California State University campuses organize two days of protests against state budget cuts.

Events planned include teach-ins and rallies to distribute information about the state's financing of higher education. Organizers at San Francisco State University also are planning a voter-registration drive and a march to the state office building across town.

State support for the California State system was cut by $125-million, or 7.6 per cent, from 1991-92 to 1992-93, and tuition was raised by 40 per cent, to $1,308, this year.

More cuts are possible in the spring, in part because the 20-campus system had to plan for fall classes without knowing how much money it would get.

Students expect support from staff and faculty members. Supervisors are being encouraged to allow employees to attend the rallies, a university spokeswoman said. While the California Faculty Association asked faculty members not to cancel classes, the union did ask its campus chapters to encourage attendance at events.

Senate Vote Virtually Insures a $100 Cut in Maximum Pell Grant for 1993-94

Lawmakers reject proposals to shift money from military to domestic spending

By Jim Zook and Stephen Burd

EVEN WITH TUITION RATES climbing and student aid in growing demand, the Senate last week effectively insured that the maximum Pell Grant would be cut by $100 for 1993-94.

Hamstrung by budget constraints, the lawmakers rejected two proposals that would have increased student-aid budgets by shifting money from military to domestic spending.

If the action survives the Senate's final vote on the bill, which had not yet occurred when *The Chronicle* went to press late last week, both houses of Congress will have cut the maximum Pell Grant to $2,300—a major defeat for student-aid advocates, who earlier this year cheered as Congress voted to authorize Pell Grants as high as $3,700.

The votes were in the form of amendments to the Senate appropriations bill for the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor. The bill would provide a 3.1-per-cent increase for the National Institutes of Health for the next fiscal year.

No Funds for New Programs

Floor debate in the Senate on the student-aid proposals did not produce any fiscal changes from what the Appropriations Committee had reported two weeks ago.

A House-Senate conference committee will forge a compromise between the Senate and House bills. The latter passed in July.

Highlights of Senate Bill

Maximum Pell Grant: Down 4%
Work-Study: Up 3%
Stafford Student Loans: Up 3%
Black-college aid: Down 1%
Adult education: Up 7%
NIH: Up 3%
AIDS research and education: Up 3%

As expected, the Senate provided no money for any programs newly created by this year's reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Senators soundly rejected two proposals to transfer funds from the Defense Department to supplement student-aid, research, and social programs.

Sen. Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican who is in the midst of a heated re-election campaign, tried to re-allocate $2.9-billion in Defense Department funds to Pell Grant recipients. It would have increased the maximum Pell award to $2,800.

Sen. Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, sought to shift $4.1-billion from the Pentagon to various health and education programs, including $500-million for Pell Grants. The added funds could have raised the maximum Pell Grant to $2,425.

Need Cited for 'Peace Dividend'

Supporters recited a litany of statistics about the nation's social ills as evidence of the need to invest a share of the "peace dividend" in these programs.

"Our military walks taller, shoots straighter, and fights better than any military on the face of the earth," Mr. Harkin said. "Shifting six-tenths of 1 per cent of defense outlays is not going to change that."

Most Republicans and many key Democrats—including Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Budget Committee Chairman Jim Sasser of Tennessee—were not persuaded.

Mr. Byrd, chastened after an attempt earlier this year to transfer funds from the military was narrowly defeated, said it was a bad time to reconsider that decision because of a promised Presidential veto.

"We can't override his veto, and we don't gain a thing by sending it to him," Mr. Byrd said.

A 1990 budget agreement between President Bush and Congress requires a three-fifths majority to break a provision, known as "fire walls," that prohibits transfers from the military to the civilian parts of the

Congressional Compromise Finances SSC for Another Year

By Kim A. McDonald

WASHINGTON

CONGRESSIONAL NEGOTIATORS last week agreed to a compromise that would provide $517-million for the Superconducting Supercollider in fiscal 1993, which begins Oct. 1.

The agreement would allow the Department of Energy to continue its construction of the subatomic-particle accelerator near Dallas. The $8.25-billion project was endangered when the House of Representatives voted in June to kill the supercollider because of concerns over the growing federal deficit and fears that the project would squeeze less costly, but more important scientific efforts.

The House vote also came amid ~~a series~~ of reports about mismanagement of the project.

The compromise was reached in a $22-billion energy-and-water appropriations measure that was sent to President Bush for his signature. The bill also includes more favorable levels than the House version for magnetic-fusion research, which would receive $339-million, and general-science-and-research activities, which would get $1.4-billion.

Scientists involved in the supercollider, who feared this summer that they would have to throw away years of their work and a unique facility for particle physicists, breathed a sigh of relief over the outcome.

AP/WIDE WORLD

Rep. Jim Chapman: "I don't think there was any question that, given the strong support in the Senate, we would be able to restore some of the funding within the committee."

"It's clearly a major victory," said Russ Wylie, a spokesman for the Superconducting Supercollider Laboratory in Dallas. "Everyone here is just delighted." Proponents of the project in Congress said the collider's survival was assured by its overwhelming support in the Senate, which voted in August to allocate $550-million to the project.

"I don't think there was any question that, given the strong support in the Senate, we would be able to restore some of the funding within the committee," said Rep. Jim Chapman, Democrat of Texas and a member of the House-Senate conference committee that reached the compromise. "The question was, How much?"

How Figure Was Arrived At

Opponents complained that the agreement was hardly a compromise, since the House had provided only $34-million in its version of the bill to end the project's construction.

"It's as if the House floor vote didn't take place," said an aide to Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert, a New York Republican who has been the project's leading critic.

Mr. Chapman said conferees had decided on the $517-million amount because it was halfway between the $483-million allocated for the project by the House Appro-

Continued on Page A28